

Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Use of Cigarettes by High School Students
Justification	<p>More than 400,000 deaths each year are attributed to cigarette smoking, making it the leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. Smoking increases the risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lung disease. Environmental tobacco smoke has been shown to increase the risk for heart disease and lung cancer among nonsmokers. Careless smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires in the United States. It is also illegal for youth under the age of 18 to purchase tobacco products. Among adults in the U.S. who ever smoked daily, 82% tried their first cigarette prior to age 18.</p>
Definition	<p>Percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting smoking a cigarette on one or more days within the past 30 days.</p>
Data Source	<p>Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</p>
Frequency	<p>Biennial</p>
Geographic Levels	<p>National and State</p>
Demographic Categories	<p>Grade Level, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity</p>
Strengths	<p>YRBSS estimates typically are based on larger samples than the NSDUH, and can be further broken down by grade level, gender, and race/ethnicity. Some states also collect YRBSS data for individual communities or school districts, which can be compared with their state-level data.</p>
Limitations	<p>This measure does not convey the lifetime or current amount of cigarettes smoked. As of 2003, weighted representative samples were only available for 32 states. Not all states participate, and some participating states do not provide representative samples. YRBSS is a school-based survey, so students who have dropped out of school are not represented. It is also subject to bias due to self-report, non-coverage (refusal by selected schools to participate), and non-response (refusal/no answer). Estimates for some demographic subgroups may have relatively low precision (i.e., large confidence intervals).</p>